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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LE, MIRANDA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2167

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/872,235

Applicant(s)

BAFFIER ET AL.

Examiner

Miranda Le

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment , filed 1/22/2003.
2. Claims 1-70 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 36 are independent claims. In the Amendment, claims 1, 36 have been amended, no claims have been added, or cancelled. This action is made Final.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless:

(e) the invention was described in

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-6, 17-21, 33-34, 36-41, 52-56, 68-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hitchcock et al. (US Patent No. 6,345,278 B1).

Hitchcock anticipated independent claims 1, 36 by the following:

**As to claims 1, 36**, Hitchcock teaches a method for provisioning databases for users on a wide area network, the method comprising the steps of:

a first party managing one or more database systems (i.e. server 16 manages database 36 in Fig.1, col.3, line 66 to col. 4, line 11);

a plurality of second parties (i.e. institution computers 28 in Fig. 1 or multiple institutions subscribe at col. 4, line 22) subscribing to database services (application servicer 24, col. 4 line 7) supported by the one or more database systems managed by the first party, wherein the database services include services for storing and managing data (i.e. institutions table, col. 12, lines 30-52) provided by the second parties at col. 3, line 66 to col. 4, line 11, col. 12, lines 30-52; and

providing over a network, to database applications (i.e. institution's database at col. 7, line 16) controlled by the second parties (i.e. institution computers 28 in Fig. 1), access to the database services to which the second parties are subscribed at col. 4, line 64 to col. 5, line 12; col. 6, line 65 to col. 7, line 17;

wherein the database applications (i.e. institution's database at col. 7, line 16), controlled by the second parties (i.e. institution computers 28 in Fig. 1), interact with the database systems managed by the first party by sending, to the database systems, database commands (i.e. the form engine then converts the application information into a form compatible with the institution internal databases at col. 7, lines 13-17) that conform to the database language supported by the database system at col. 4, line 64 to col. 5, line 12, col. 6, line 65 to col. 7, line 17.

**As to claims 2, 37,** Hitchcock teaches at least one of said second parties (i.e. institution computers 28 in Fig. 1) in an application service provides application services to a plurality of third parties (i.e. applicant computer 14 in Fig. 1) over said network at col. 3, line 54 to col. 4, line 22;

the step of providing access to the database services (application service 24, col. 4 line 7) includes providing database services to an application used by said application provider (i.e. application service, col. 3, lines 46-47) to provide said application services to said third parties (i.e. applicant computer 14, Fig. 1) at col. 3, line 43 to col. 4, line 22.

**As to claims 3, 38,** Hitchcock teaches receiving over said network a request to perform a database management operation from a user associated with particular second party (i.e. service provides customized form for each participating institution, col. 5, lines 37-38) of said plurality of second parties (col. 5, lines 7-48); and

responding to said request (i.e. when the applicant requests an application form from a particular institution and request is authenticated by comparing the password with the password in the password database, col. 5, lines 55-58) by performing said database management operation on one or more databases controlled by said first party (i.e. server 16 in Fig. 1) without human intervention by said first party (col. 5, line 49 to col. 6, line 12).

**As to claims 4, 39,** Hitchcock teaches wherein the one or more database systems are implemented on a set of database devices (i.e. database structure) that include a plurality of database appliances, a database appliance comprising database software and non-database software tailored to the needs of the database software (col. 9, line 23 to col. 10, line 29).

**As to claims 5, 40,** Hitchcock teaches wherein the step of providing access over a network (i.e. network 18 in Fig. 1) includes providing access over a public network of computer networks (col. 3, line 54 to col. 4, line 11).

**As to claims 6, 41,** Hitchcock teaches wherein the step of performing the database management operation involves allocating a different amount of resources (logotype 42 indicating the institution to which the application is directed at col. 5, lines 11-12) to said particular second party than is currently allocated for said particular second party (col. 5, lines 7-28).

**As to claims 17, 52,** Hitchcock teaches the step of the first party updating the one or more database systems by receiving from a community server over the network an update to the one or more database systems, wherein the community server provides the update to plurality of service providers over said network (col. 14, lines 25-46).

**As to claims 18, 53,** Hitchcock teaches the step of the first party sending to a community server a status of a user subscribed resources (i.e. data sharing across institutions), wherein the user subscribed resources is maintained by said first party (col. 4, lines 42-63).

**As to claims 19, 54,** Hitchcock teaches further comprising presenting to a user (i.e. applicant) associated with said first party a user interface to allow said first party to configure a database device used to provide said database services as one of a dedicated device (i.e. entry

page is branched with a logotype 42 branding application as belonging to the institution) and a plurality of virtual devices (i.e. web page, col. 4, lines 42-63).

**As to claims 20, 55,** Hitchcock teaches further comprising presenting to a user associated with said first party a user interface to allow said first party to configure at least one of a dedicated device (i.e. entry page is branched with a logotype 42 branding application as belonging to the institution) and a virtual device of plurality of virtual devices (i.e. web page) as one of a staging device available only to a database service developer for developing database services, and a production device for making services available to a user who is not the database service developer (col. 4, lines 42-63).

**As to claims 21, 56,** Hitchcock teaches further comprising presenting a user interface for transferring an application (i.e. application transaction at col. 7, line 13) from a staging device (i.e. validation stage at col. 7, line 1) to a production device (col. 4, lines 42-63, col. 6, line 55 to col. 7, line 17).

**As to claims 33, 68,** Hitchcock teaches the first party performing at least one of the steps of: setting up database parameters; reporting database usage; backing up the database, upgrading the database, controlling database versions, implementing database security; implementing database security within the database (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60).

As to claims 34, 69, Hitchcock teaches if a costing database does not already exist, then automatically creating the costing database (payment scripts) of database resource usage by user, and initiating a costing model with price per unit of consumable resource per service (col. 6, line 24-37);

inserting data into the costing database based on actual use of database resources by the user (col. 6, line 24-37);

executing the costing model to compute a cost-per-user based on the data in the costing database and the price per unit of consumable resource per service (col. 6, line 24-37);

billing the user for the cost computed by the costing model (col. 6, line 24-37).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 7-16, 25, 27-32, 42-51, 60, 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitchcock et al. (US Patent No. 6,345,278 B1), in view of Klug et al. (US Pub. No. 2001/0011274 A1).



**As to claims 7, 42,** Hitchcock does not expressly teach the step of delivering to a party over the network one or more messages (i.e. step 920 in Fig. 9) which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the party to subscribe to said database services provided by said first party. However, Klug teaches this limitation at [0055], (i.e. step 920 in Fig. 9).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Klug's teaching of delivering to a party over the network one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the party to subscribe to said database services provided by said first party would have assisted Hitchcock's users in registering at World Wide Web web sites.

**As to claims 8, 43,** Hitchcock teaches wherein the user interfaces contain controls for specifying user profile information, payment information, and selection of database services (Fig. 6b, col. 14, lines 25-46).

**As to claims 9, 44,** Hitchcock does not expressly the step of delivering to a party over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to access a database for a database service to which said one of said second parties has subscribed. Klug teaches this limitation at [0055].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Klug's teaching of delivering to a party over the network to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to access a database for a database service to

which said one of said second parties has subscribed would have assisted Hitchcock's users in registering at World Wide Web web sites.

**As to claims 10, 45,** Hitchcock does not specifically teach wherein the first party also provides database application over said network; and the method further comprises the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages (i.e. step 920 in Fig. 9) which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the users to access a database application service to which said one of said second parties has subscribed ([0055]). Klug teaches this limitation at ([0055]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Klug's teaching of delivering to a party over the network to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the users to access a database application service to which said one of said second parties has subscribed would have assisted Hitchcock's users in registering at World Wide Web web sites.

**As to claims 11, 46,** Hitchcock does not specifically teach the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages (i.e. step 920 in Fig. 9) which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to indicate changes to at least one of profile information, payment information, and the selection of services to which said one of said second parties is subscribed. Klug teaches this limitation at ([0055]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Klug's teaching of delivering to a party over the network to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to indicate changes to at least one of profile information, payment information, and the selection of services to which said one of said second parties is subscribed would have assisted Hitchcock's users in registering at World Wide Web web sites.

**As to claims 12, 47,** delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages (i.e. step 920 in Fig. 9) which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to supply contents for a subscribed database. Klug teaches this limitation at ([0055]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Klug's teaching of delivering to a party over the network to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to supply contents for a subscribed database would have assisted Hitchcock's users in registering at World Wide Web web sites.

**As to claims 13, 48,** Hitchcock does not specifically teach delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages (i.e. step 920 in Fig. 9) which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to develop a new database application. Klug teaches this limitation at ([0055]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Klug's teaching of delivering to a party over the network to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to develop a new database application would have assisted Hitchcock's users in registering at World Wide Web web sites.

**As to claims 14, 49,** Hitchcock does not specifically teach comprising the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages (i.e. step 920 in Fig. 9) which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to integrate an external service. Klug teaches this limitation at ([0055]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Klug's teaching of delivering to a party over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages which cause generation of user interfaces that allow the user to integrate an external service would have assisted Hitchcock's users in registering at World Wide Web web sites.

**As to claims 15, 50,** Hitchcock does not specifically teach further comprising the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages (i.e. step 920 in Fig. 9) which cause generation of user interfaces that present a status of a user subscribed resources selected from database resources managed by said first party. Klug teaches this limitation at ([0055]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Klug's teaching of the above mentioned limitation would have assisted Hitchcock's users more readily and efficiently in registering at World Wide Web web sites.

**As to claims 16, 51,** Hitchcock does not specifically teach these limitations. However, Klug teaches the step of delivering over the network, to a user associated with one of said second parties, one or more messages (i.e. step 920 in Fig. 9) which cause generation of user interfaces that present the user with a user-selectable representation of a wizard for building a Web page with a database component associated with an interface to a database receiving user input indicating the wizard ([0055]);

executing said wizard, including presenting a series of screens to the user to prompt user input for building the Web page ([0023]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Klug's teaching of all the addressed limitations above would have assisted Hitchcock's users more readily and efficiently in registering at World Wide Web web sites.

**As to claims 25, 60,** Hitchcock teaches presenting to the user a set of selectable sources of content (i.e. an information link to provide the application, col. 5, lines 7-20);

receiving user input indicating a selected source (i.e. a preferred information web page is returned to the user, col. 5, lines 7-20);

launching a source update process to connect to the selected source and update a database (i.e. user's personal log page) with information received from the selected sources (i.e. entry page also includes a link 74 to the user's personal log page, col. 5, lines 7-20);

receiving user input indicating a selected source (i.e. web page includes an application option page link 72 to the actual application, col. 5, lines 7-20);

launching a source update process to connect to the selected source and update a database with information received from the selected sources (i.e. entry page also includes a link 76 for changing a user's password, col. 5, lines 7-20).

**As to claims 27, 62,** Hitchcock teaches in response to user input that specifies that data should be loaded into a subscribed database, determining whether the subscribed database currently exists (i.e. new account) for said one of said second parties (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60);

creating the subscribed database (i.e. database 26) if the subscribed database does not currently exist for said one of said second parties (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60).

**As to claims 28, 63,** Hitchcock teaches a staging database device can be accessed by the user for developing the new database (i.e. password and applicant database in Fig. 5) application and cannot be accessed by users associated with other parties of said plurality of second parties (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60);

receiving development input from the user (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60);

building a new application on the staging database device based on the selected development kit and the development input (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60);

presenting representations of selectable application development kits (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60);

receiving user input indicating a selected development kit from the user (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60);

launching a staging process including configuring consumable database resources on a staging database device (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60).

**As to claims 29, 64,** Hitchcock teaches the step of developing the new database application further comprising the steps of after receiving user input indicating a selected development kit, determining whether a client process of the selected development kit must be downloaded to a computer of the user over the wide area network (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60);

if it is determined the client process of the selected development kit must be downloaded, downloading the client process to the computer of the user over the wide area network before the step of building the new application (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60).

**As to claims 30, 65,** Hitchcock teaches the step of developing a new database application further comprising the steps of receiving input from the user indicating the new application is ready for operational use (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60);

in response to receiving input from the user indicating the new application is ready for operational use, launching a production transfer process including sending a request to the first party to transfer the new application to a production device on which the new application may be accessed by users who did not develop the new application (col. 4, line 54 to col. 5, line 60).

**As to claims 31, 66,** Hitchcock teaches the step of integrating comprises the steps of presenting a representation of a selectable external service (i.e. payment methods, col. 4, lines 12-22, col. 6, line 24-37);

receiving user input indicating a selected external service (col. 4, lines 12-22, col. 6, line 24-37);

launching an integration process to provide the external service to the user (col. 4, lines 12-22; col. 6, line 24-37).

**As to claims 32, 67,** Hitchcock teaches the selectable external service includes at least one of a payment service (i.e. payment methods, col. 4, lines 12-22; col. 6, line 24-37).

7. Claims 22-24, 26, 57-59, 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitchcock et al. (US Patent No. 6,345,278 B1), in view of Klug et al. (US Pub. No. 2001/0011274 A1), and further in view of Hokanson et al. (US Patent No. 6,094,680).

**As to claims 22, 57,** Hitchcock does not teach wherein the step of delivering to a party over the network one or more messages (i.e. step 920 in Fig. 9) which cause generation of user



interfaces that allow the party to subscribe to said database services is performed as part of a registration process. Klug teaches this limitation at ([0055]).

Hitchcock, Klug do not teach the following limitations. Hokanson teaches the interfaces include controls for receiving a user input value for a maximum amount of subscribed resources (col. 10, line 36 to col. 11, line 53);

the method further includes the step of presenting an alert if an amount of subscribed resources consumed by said party exceeds a threshold percentage of the maximum amount of subscribed resources (col. 10, line 36 to col. 11, line 53).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Hokanson's teaching of all the addressed limitations above would have allowed Hitchcock's users to facilitate user access to the network, to allocate the resources among the network cites to make the resources available to the users against the cost associated with making the resources available to the users.

**As to claims 23, 58,** Hokanson teaches the steps of receiving a user input value for a particular threshold percentage (col. 10, line 36 to col. 11, line 53);

presenting an alert if an amount of resources consumed by said party exceeds the particular threshold percentage of the maximum amount of subscribed resources (col. 10, line 36 to col. 11, line 53).

**As to claims 24, 59,** Hokanson teaches the maximum amount of subscribed resources includes a maximum amount of at least one of an amount of storage space, a number of users

connected to a platform in a period of time, an amount of processor time used in a period of time, and a number of transactions completed in a period of time (col. 10, line 36 to col. 11, line 53).

**As to claims 26, 61,** Hitchcock, Klug do not teach the following limitations. Hokanson teaches:

the user input indicating a selected source also indicates a schedule for updating from the selected source (col. 10, line 36 to col. 11, line 53);

the source update process connects to the selected source according to the schedule for updating from the selected source (col. 10, line 36 to col. 11, line 53).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Hokanson's teaching of all the addressed limitations above would have allowed Hitchcock's users to facilitate user access to the network, to allocate the resources among the network cites to make the resources available to the users against the cost associated with making the resources available to the users.

8. Claims 35, 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hitchcock et al. (US Patent No. 6,345,278 B1), in view of Hokanson et al. (US Patent No. 6,094,680).

**As to claims 35, 70,** Hitchcock teaches the costing model supports: fixed price per unit of usage (col. 6, line 24-37);

variable price per unit usage as a function of usage (col. 6, line 24-37);

different prices for different users (col. 6, line 24-37);

different prices for different services (col. 6, line 24-37).

Hitchcock does not explicitly teach the following limitations. Hokanson teaches:  
flat price up to a maximum value of usage (col. 10, line 36 to col. 11, line 53);  
different prices for increments of usage above a maximum subscribed usage (col. 10, line 36 to col. 11, line 53).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because Hokanson's teaching of all the addressed limitations above would have allowed Hitchcock's users to facilitate user access to the network, to allocate the resources among the network cites to make the resources available to the users against the cost associated with making the resources available to the users.

#### *Response to Arguments*

9. Applicant's arguments regarding Hokanson and Kohl do not teach/suggest the claimed invention, with respect to claims 1-70 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### *Conclusion*

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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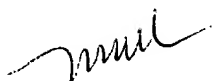
the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Miranda Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-4112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

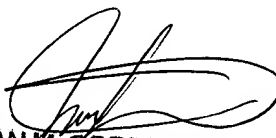
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene, can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax number to this Art Unit is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Miranda Le  
May 12, 2005

  
JEAN M. CORRIELLUS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER